

Making and Keeping Friends

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LESSON 7 — FRIENDS JOIN A GROUP

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You have been learning about making and keeping friends in this project. When you show others you are a friendly person, they will be more friendly toward you. As you grow older you will have many chances to join friends in group activities. In a group you will find:

- People are alike in many ways and different in others.
- You cannot always have your way.
- You must be honest if you want others to trust you.
- Cooperation is necessary to get group projects finished.
- You can learn new ideas and skills from others.
- You can develop leadership skills.
- A group is only as strong as you help make it.
- Being part of a group can be fun, but it takes sharing.

What's a Group?

Being a part of a group or club means sharing your time and talent with people who share some of the same interests. There are many kinds of groups in your community — church groups, hobby groups, school clubs or social clubs. Each group is special, but most groups work for the good of the members.

Groups can be different sizes. Some groups are small; others have large memberships. Groups or clubs usually meet on a regular basis, such as once a week or once a month.

To be successful in a group, you will need to:

- Work with other boys and girls.
- Help make decisions.
- Share and use information.
- Listen to others' opinions.
- Cooperate.
- Meet new friends.

Some groups have membership requirements. You may have to be a certain age or have a certain amount of time,

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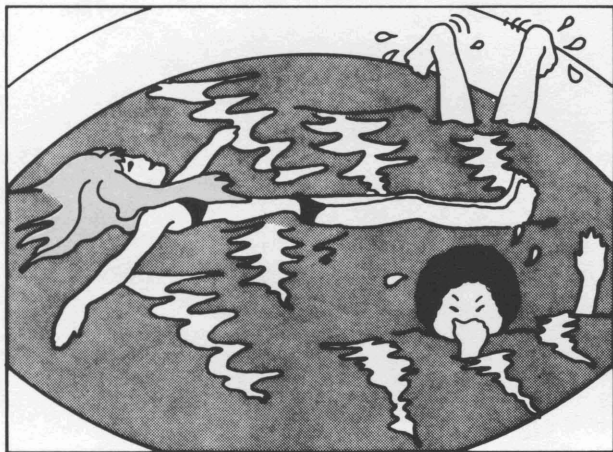
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money, skill or equipment to be a member. To be a member of a swimming group, you would need a bathing suit and money for the swimming fee before going to swim. To join 4-H or other youth groups, you may have to be a certain age. 4-H Clubs require a boy or girl to be 9 years old.

If you have never belonged to a club or youth group, why not explore the groups in your community? You may be surprised how much you could offer to a group.

Name as many different youth groups in your community as you can. What are membership requirements? Which would you like to belong to?



How Groups Work Together

Things go much smoother in a group if everyone knows, understands and follows the rules. Rules vary from group to group. Whether you are in a big or small club, there are some basic rules which make membership more fun for everyone. Here are some common rules:

1. Choose a leader and assign jobs to help the group operate smoothly.
2. Involve all members in activities. It is more fun when everyone has a part.
3. Members often must take turns. You cannot always be first or have your way in a group.

4. Everyone has a right to express his opinion, but only one person speaks at a time.
5. Listen and follow instructions before starting a group activity.
6. Support the group's activities by giving your best.

4-H — A Special Youth Group

One youth group that many boys and girls in your county may belong to is 4-H. In a 4-H Club, you get together with friends your own age to play games and learn many new things. Members can be 9 to 19 years of age.

A volunteer youth or adult leader helps you and other group members with your project. It may be a project in cooking, bicycle safety, dog care, gardening, home decorating, sewing, child care or something else. There are many fun projects. You choose the project that interests you.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a 4-H project? If so, think about what you have been doing in this friendship project. You have learned new ideas, played games, studied a new lesson each week and learned to get along with other members. Being in a 4-H project would be much like being in this friendship project. If you have enjoyed this group, you will like 4-H!

In 4-H you get to plan what you want to learn and how you will do it. Then you and a small group of your friends can work on the project together. Through a 4-H project you learn:

- to do things on your own and as part of a project group
- to make choices
- to work closely with other youth who are interested in the same things you are

What kinds of things are you interested in learning? List at least three subjects that would be fun to learn more about in a 4-H project.



Is 4-H for You?

Interested in learning more about 4-H? If so, here is what you can do. First, ask your leader what kind of things 4-H groups do. Perhaps the county Extension agent could visit with you and your friends to tell you more about the 4-H events in your community. The county Extension agents are listed in the phone book under county offices. They will be glad to talk with you and your friends about becoming 4-H members.

A good way to find out more about 4-H is to invite a 4-H member to talk to your group. Ask the 4-H'er to show your group some of his projects. Find out what he likes best about 4-H and what 4-H has taught him.

Another way to find out more about 4-H is through enrolling in an *Exploring 4-H* project. Your leader has a copy of the project guide that you may borrow. Here you can choose and learn about 15 different projects. *Exploring 4-H* is a good way to help you decide what topic you really want to study. Since many 4-H projects are short, it is possible to complete several different projects each year with your leader's help.

If you decide 4-H is for you, get permission from your parents to talk to your leader about joining. There are no dues to pay. However, some of the projects you choose such as clothing, home improvement or foods will involve some expense.

Being in 4-H also involves:

- Attending meetings regularly.
- Taking part in group activities.
- Selecting and completing some type of project.
- Getting along with other 4-H members.
- Obeying the rules of your 4-H group.
- Participating in 4-H Club community projects.

It is fun working with friends in a group. Learning new things and sharing experiences is all a part of being a good club member.

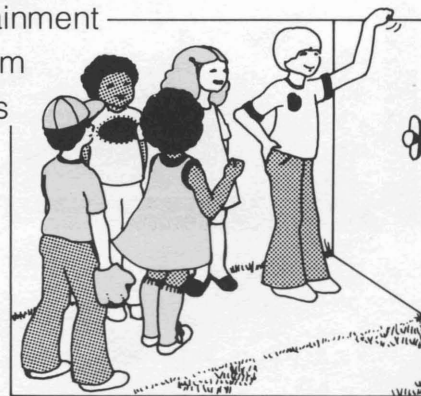
To Sum Up

Everyone wants and needs friends. You want people to like you and to include you in group activities. You have learned the necessary qualities of friendship in the "Making and Keeping Friends" project. You have learned that to have friends, you must be a friend.

Things to Do

Plan a party for group members who completed the "Making and Keeping Friends" project. Decide:

- When to have the party
- Where to have the party
- Decorations
- Refreshments
- Entertainment
- Program
- Awards



Invite your family to come to the party. They are interested in what you have been doing in your project.

4-H Fill-In

How much have you learned about 4-H? Here are some incomplete statements about 4-H. Fill in the missing word from the list below:

FUN, CLUB, CHOOSE, NINETEEN,
DOING, YOUTH, NINE

1. 4-H is a _____ group in your community.
2. 4-H is for all boys or girls who are _____ to _____ years old.
3. In 4-H, you can _____ projects to work on.
4. One way to learn about 4-H is to visit an organized 4-H _____.
5. In 4-H you learn by _____.
6. 4-H is _____.

(Answers at the bottom of the page.)

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FRIENDSHIP PARTY

1. Display everyone's completed friendship books for friends and family to see at the party.
2. Sing one of the friendship songs you have learned.
3. Have a *Friendship Fun Festival*:
 - Ask each group member to tell about one thing that he or she *enjoyed* doing during the project, or
 - Ask each member to tell one new thing he or she *learned* from the project.
4. Have a *Friendship Frolic* for parents and friends. Ask group members to act out, without speaking, what it means to be a true friend. Party guests will have fun guessing your friendship pantomime. Act out these examples and add your own pantomimes:
 - Sharing with friends
 - Helping a friend
 - Caring about friends
 - Having fun with friends
 - Being a good sport with friends
 - Making new friends



ANSWERS TO 4-H FILL-IN:

- (1) Youth (2) 9 to 19 years of age (3) choose (4) Club (5) doing (6) fun

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